

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 01482 201227Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----060690 201228Z /14

O 201136Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2268
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NMUC, NATO, NL
SUBJ: ERW CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 70801

1. THE CANCELLATION OF SCHEDULED ERW CONSULTATIONS IS LIKELY
TO GIVE RISE TO MISINTERPRETATION AND TO RAISE QUESTIONS IN THE
NETHERLANDS.

2. WE EXPECT THAT DUTCH PRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN RIGHT ON TOP
OF ERW ISSUE WITH ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE REPORTING, WILL RAPIDLY
FIND OUT ABOUT THE CANCELLATION. THIS WILL TRIGGER SPECULATION,
POSSIBLY ABOUT WASHINGTON GETTING COLD FEET, AND MAY EVEN
LEAD TO EXAGGERATED--AND OF COURSE UTTERLY MISLEADING--INFERENCE
THAT SOMEHOW CANCELLATION IS LINKED TO THE MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION
HELD MARCH 18-19 IN AMSTERDAM AGAINST THE NEURTON BOMB.

3. THOUGH WE HAVE NOT AS YET HAD ANY DUTCH REACTION, CANCELLATION
IS LIKELY TO BE WELCOME. GON, ALREADY IN A DIFFICULT POSITION,
IS BEING NEEDLED BY SOCIALIST OPPOSITION LEADER AND FORMER
DEF MIN STEMERDINK, WHO QUESTIONED THE NEED FOR A QUICK NATO

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PAGE 02 THE HA 01482 201227Z

DECISION. THOUGH PREDICTIONS ARE HAZARDOUS, THERE IS A POSSI-
BILITY THAT OPPONENTS OF THE WEAPON MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
ADDITIONAL TIME TO SEEK TO TIE THE HANDS OF THE GOVERNMENT EVEN
FURTHER THAN IS ALREADY THE CASE.
BROWN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, ADVANCED WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA01482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0491
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780345/aaaabmgw.tel
Line Count: 60
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4e760c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 70801
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3263484
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERW CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: MNUC, NL, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4e760c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014